

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9910

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10258

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. WE ARE COMING IN TODAY WITH AN OPEN CHANNEL MESSAGE WHICH REVIEWS STAFFING OF THE POLITICAL SECTION FOR 1977/78 (MOSCOW 10227). IF OUR UNDERSTANDINGS TRACK WITH PER, THERE ARE NO AVAILABLE POL/INT SLOTS AVAILABLE FOR DJEREDJIAN IN THE SUMMER OF 1978. WE ARE EAGER TO ENCOURAGE HIM, HOWEVER, THEREFORE WE SUPPORT A TWO-YEAR ASSIGNMENT TO GARMISCH WITH ASSIGNMENT AS DICK COMBS' REPLACEMENT IN 1979. ALTERNATIVELY, IF AGREEABLE TO HEAD POL/INT IN SUMMER OF 1979, AND DJEREDJIAN REPLACING OBER AS HEAD OF POL/EXT. THIS WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGE OF GIVING OBER EXPERIENCE IN BOTH SIDES OF POL, AND PERHAPS PROVIDE BETTER FIT OF THE TWO OFFICERS' BACKGROUND EXPERIENCE. (OBER'S PREVIOUS TOUR HERE WILL BE RELEVANT IN THE INTERNAL POSITION, WHILE DJEREDJIAN'S ME EXPERTISE WILL BE MOST VALUABLE IN EXTERNAL).

2. WE AGREE WITH YOUR FORMULATION ON SONTAG EXTENSION. WE DEFINITELY WANT TO KEEP THE POSITION FOR STATE CADRE. TOON

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